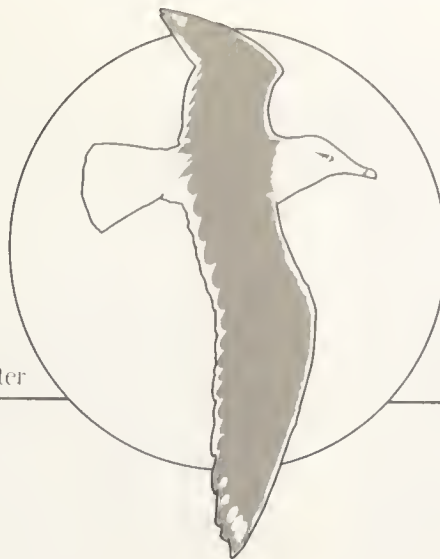


The Gull

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 85 No. 11 December 2001



GGAS 2002 ELECTION

The Nominating Committee of the GGAS Board of Directors is already planning for the next GGAS election – to be held by mail ballot, due April 18, 2002, before the GGAS Annual Meeting in May 2002. The Committee will nominate candidates for Officers and Directors in a report to the membership at the regular membership meeting on February 21, 2002 in Berkeley and in the March issue of *The Gull*.

The GGAS Bylaws provide for members to take part in the nomination process in two ways: First, they may submit suggested nominations to the Nominating Committee. And second, they may nominate candidates to be included on the mail ballot in addition to those proposed by the Committee. Any such additional nomination may be made if the nominee agrees to serve and his or her candidacy is supported by signatures of at least ten GGAS members in good standing. Any such additional nomination, with the required signatures, must be received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee at least three months before the annual election, that is, by January 24, 2002. [GGAS Bylaws, Art. VI, Sec. 3]

GGAS members may send suggestions to any member of the Nominating Committee, and may submit additional nominations to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, in each case, in care of the GGAS office in Berkeley.

The GGAS President serves for two years and other Officers for one year. The GGAS Board of Directors includes (1) the elected Officers, (2) up to six Directors elected by GGAS members for staggered 3-year terms (our East and West Bay Directors), (3) one "at-large" Director (if designated by the Board), and (4) the Chairs of Standing Committees (appointed by the President each year with the approval of a majority of the elected Officers and Directors).

The Officer and Director positions to be filled in the April 2002 election are listed below. We encourage GGAS members to submit their candidate suggestions to the Nominating Committee as soon as possible, but no later than January 24, 2002.

Nominating Committee

Nancy Smith, Chair (and West Bay Director)
Leslie Lethridge (President and Director)
Arthur Feinstein (GGAS Executive Director)
Dana Kokubun (GGAS Program Director)

Open positions for the April 2002 Election

President

First Vice President East Bay Director (2002-2004)*

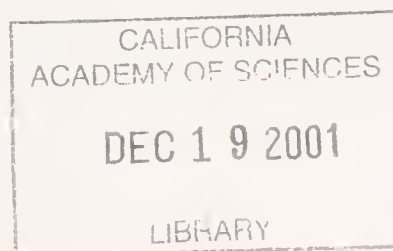
Second Vice President East Bay Director
(2002-2005)

Recording Secretary West Bay Director (2002-2004)*

Corresponding Secretary West Bay Director (2002-2005)

Treasurer

*Position with two years remaining of a three-year term.





The period was another very active one for fall migrants, with mostly dry weather except for some significant rain near the end of the month. An amazing number of CBRC review species was reported, including 3 shearwater species, 6 other water bird species, and 9 land bird species (one of the latter was also seen at two different locations), making a total of 18, if all reports are submitted for review. Watching these observations coming up on the internet is one very exciting part of this job that I will miss when my tenure is over as of the January 2002 issue. I will begin my thanks now to all the faithful observers, who numbered 114 this month!

Albatross to Ducks.

Two Laysan Albatross were spotted on an Oct. 15 PT in MRN county waters, where 28 Black-footed Albatross were also seen (DvN). A Cordell Bank PT found 28 more Black-footed Albatross on Sept. 29 (DLSh), and 2 were seen on an Oct. 8 SCZ PT (DLSh). An Oct. 10 PT in SCZ waters found a **Short-tailed Albatross** (*Phoebastria albatrus*) dead in the water, but it could not be collected (JeD). This species was formerly abundant across the North Pacific, but was nearly exterminated by plume hunters and is now making a slow comeback (Harrison, 1985). A **Streaked Shearwater** (*Calonectris leucomelas*) was identified on an Oct. 6 MTY PT (JD). This shearwater is normally found in the NW Pacific and is an Asian breeder (Harrison, 1985), and there are a few CA records. There were two very high counts for Pink-footed Shearwaters, with 734 on the Sept. 29 Cordell Bank PT (DLSh) and 480 on the Oct. 15 MRN PT (DvN). A trip to Pioneer Canyon, SM, Sept. 30 picked up 20 more Pink-footed Shearwaters (MM), there were 5 off

Pigeon Pt., SM, Oct. 10 (RSTh), one at the Richmond Harbor, CC, Oct. 27 (ES), and a few more Oct. 27 off Balsa Pt., SM (RSTh). Flesh-footed Shearwaters were also reported, with 3 on the Cordell Bank PT Sept. 29 (DLSh), 1 on a MTY PT Oct. 14 (DLSh), 5 on the Oct. 15 MRN PT (DvN), and 2 on an Oct. 20 MTY Bay PT (CK, DLSh). A **Greater Shearwater** (*Puffinus gravis*) was found on the Oct. 8 SCZ PT (TM, DLSh), and another (or the same?) was reported off Pigeon Pt., SM, Oct. 11 (RSTh). The Greater Shearwater is an Atlantic bird with a very few Pacific records and a handful of records from CA waters. Two Short-tailed Shearwaters were identified: one on the Oct. 20 MTY Bay PT (CK, DLSh) and the other off Pigeon Pt., SM Oct. 21 (RSTh). Pigeon Pt., SM, also hosted a **Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*) Oct. 21 (JD), another or the same bird was found at that location Oct. 23 (AD), and nearby Balsa Pt., SM, had another report on Oct. 27 (RSTh). This Shearwater species has a few records in N. California annually.

A variety of storm-petrels was found offshore and even onshore during the period. Seven Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen on the Oct. 29 Cordell Bank PT (DLSh), and there were 2 on Oct. 15 PT in MRN county waters (DvN). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel occurred on the Oct. 15 MRN PT, where a Leach's Storm-Petrel was also seen (DvN). Two Ashy Storm-Petrels were found on land, an injured bird in Colma, SM, Sept. 25 (RSTh), and another of that species at Pac Bell Park, SF, Oct. 2 (fide JMo). The Oct. 15 MRN PT also had 5 Black Storm-Petrels and a Least Storm-Petrel (DvN), and 6 other Least Storm-Petrels were found on the Sept. 29 Cordell Bank PT (DLSh). An Oct. 20 MTY Bay PT claimed a **Brown Booby** (*Sula leucogaster*) (CK, DLSh). The Brown Booby is a rare irregular

late summer and fall post-breeding visitor, with most records south of the Farallones (Small, 1994).

Most unusual was a reported **Pink-backed Pelican** (*Pelicanus rufescens*), normally a resident of sub-Saharan Africa. Keith Hansen made a video of the bird at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN, Oct. 10. However, the species is not on the CBRC list or the ABA list of continental U.S. birds, and could well be an escapee. Ten White-faced Ibis flew over the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, Sept. 27 (BG, BH), and 3 were at Moro Cojo Slough, MTY, Oct. 4 (Rfo). Many reports of Greater White-fronted Geese were received over HUM, MRN, MTY, SF, SCL and SCZ counties with the largest flocks over the Farallones, SF, Oct. 4 (68 birds) (PRBO), over PRNS, MRN, Oct. 60 (60 birds) (KH), and 48 near Watsonville, SCZ, Oct. 6 (DSu). Neary Lagoon, SCZ, continued to host at least 17 Wood Ducks Oct. 3 (LG, WG, BMc), and 4 were at L. Merced, SF, Oct. 14 (KMc). Five Eurasian Wigeon reports were received: from the Calero Reservoir, SCL, Oct. 2–8 (JM, BRe, FV, MOB), 1–2 at the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, Oct. 9–27 (DR, RoF, SR, MOB), 1–2 at Pescadero, SM, Oct. 20–23 (RSTh, AD), and single birds at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Oct. 21 (ME), and near the Redwood Shores Sewage Treatment Plant, SM, Oct. 26 (AD, AW). A Tufted Duck was at Charleston Slough, SCZ, Oct. 11 (BM), 5–16 Harlequin Ducks were seen at Glass Beach, Ft. Bragg, MEN, Oct. 11–22 (DT, L), and another Harlequin Duck was at Richmond Harbor, CC, Oct. 27 (ES), where a Long-tailed Duck was reported the same day (ES).

Hawks to Alcids.

Hawk Hill, MRN, had a Northern Goshawk on Oct. 6 (TB), and another was at Soquel Demonstration St. F, SCZ, Oct. 26, first in SCZ county since 1996. Eight Broad-winged Hawk

sightings were reported over MRN, MTY, SF, and SCZ counties, 3 of them at Hawk Hill, MRN. Individual Swainson's Hawks were over Hawk Hill, MRN, Oct. 6 (TB) and Oct. 10 (ME), where 4 Ferruginous Hawks were spotted on Sept. 29 (JM), another one was there Oct. 9 (ME), and other single birds were at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 30 (LC) and at Marina, MTY, Oct. 8 (JeD). A Golden Eagle was an unusual sight at the Stevens Creek mitigation ponds, SCL, Oct. 15 (RC), as were 3 of that species at Piers Ranch, Portola Valley, SCL, Oct. 29 (GH).

A Clapper Rail at Crissy Field on Oct. 17, was the first SF record since 1979 (fide HC). From Oct. 5 through at least the end of the period, a **Demoiselle Crane** (*Anthropoides virgo*) was seen with a group of Sandhill Cranes West of Lodi, SJ (DY, CC, ME, MOB). The Demoiselle Crane is not on CBRC list or ABA list of continental birds, and there is a lively dispute regarding its origin, because the species is often kept in zoos or held privately. This Crane winters in India and Sudan and is known as a vagrant in Western Europe. The website: central_valley_birds has several interesting discussions concerning this finding. Two reports of American Golden-Plovers were received: from San Luis Reservoir, MER, Oct. 6 (MR), and Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, Oct. 20-22 (DA, WL, JMo, MOB), whereas 4 individuals of its sister species, the Pacific Golden-Plover, were found: at Arrowhead Marsh, ALA, Sept. 29 (CP), at Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA, Sept. 30 (BRi), at Albany Waterfront, ALA, Sept. 20 (DuA), and at Schollenberger Park, SON, Sept. 29 (DN). Only 3 Baird's Sandpipers were identified, at PRNS, MRN, Oct. 4 (RS), and 2 others at the MRN Headland, MRN, Oct. 20 (LHu), whereas over 100 Pectoral Sandpipers were seen during the period. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was at Doran County Park, SON, Oct. 6-7 (LHu, RM, RL, MOB). A Ruff continued at Bodega Bay, SON, Sept. 29-Oct. 19 (DN, DH, CC, MOB), another remained at State & Spreckles, SCL, Oct. 6 (MR), and a 3rd was found at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, YOL,

Oct. 8 (SID)

Single South Polar Skuas were seen on a Pioneer Canyon PT, SM, Sept. 30 (MM), on a SCZ PT, Oct. 8 (DLSH), on a MTY PT, Oct. 14 (DLSH), and on Oct. 20 MTY Bay PT (CK, DLSH), but 9 were spotted on the Oct. 15 PT in MRN county waters (DvN). The Pioneer Canyon PT, SM, also had 12 Pomarine Jaegers Sept. 30 (MM), and 22 on the Sept. 29 Cordell Bank PT (DLSH). San Francisco reported several Parasitic Jaegers, with 2 in the Lincoln Park Channel, SF, Oct. 6 (HC), and 23 off the East Wash, SF, Oct. 13 (ME). A Long-tailed Jaeger was also on the Cordell Bank PT Sept. 29 (DLSH), and extremely far from the ocean was one at Truckee Marsh, ED, Oct. 9 (TE, JR). Palo Alto Baylands, SCZ, hosted a Laughing Gull Oct. 14 (JRy). A report from experienced observers identified an **Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucoideus*) at the Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, Oct. 28 (MS, RW). This gull species breeds in the North Atlantic and is most commonly found along the Northeastern US coast or Atlantic coast of Canada and has very few CA records (Small, 1994). Eight single Sabine's Gulls were found over CC/SOL, MON, SF/SM, SCL, and SON counties, with 12 more far inland at Bristlecone Rd., PLA, Sept. 27 (JS), and 4 others near Tahoe City, PLA, Oct. 9 (JR). Equally unusual inland were 1-2 Common Terns at the same Bristlecone Rd., PLA, location Sept. 27, sharing space with 1-2 Arctic Terns (JS). The Sept. 29 Cordell Bank PT also had 25 Arctic Terns (DLSH). Eighteen or more Black Skimmers remained at Charleston Slough, SCL, Oct. 12-13 (MR, LC, JM, MOB). What may be only the 2nd Pacific coastal record south of MRN county was a **Long-billed Murrelet** (*Brachyramphus perdix*) identified at Ano Nuevo Bay, SM Oct. 18 (LH, JA). The same observers had recorded another individual of the species in August off the SCZ coast.

Doves to Wood Warblers.

Land bird observations begin with two reports of White-winged Doves, one at La Selva, SCZ, Sept. 25-26 (fide DSu), and the other at Campbell

Cove, SON, Sept. 26-27 (DII, DN). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports were received, from San Louis Creek SP, MER, Oct. 15 (JSe), and from Phipps Ranch, SM, Oct. 16 (JMB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (*Empidonax flaviventris*) was seen Oct. 4 at the Farallones, SF (PRBO). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is an Eastern U.S. species and an extremely rare fall transient with most records from the Farrallones (Small, 1994). There was a Least Flycatcher at Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 29 (RS), two at the Farallones, SF, Oct. 4-7 (PRBO), and one at Soquel Demonstration St.F, SCZ, Oct. 15, was approximately the 3rd county record (DSu). A Hammond's Flycatcher was banded at CCFS, SCL, Oct. 14 (LC), and a Dusky Flycatcher was at PRNS, MRN, Oct. 6 (KH), and another Dusky Flycatcher was at the Farallones, SF, Oct. 7 (PRBO). An Eastern Phoebe was seen at Henry Cowell Redwoods SP, SCZ, Oct. 12 (JeD). A **Great Crested Flycatcher**, (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), a common Eastern U.S. forest species, was discovered at Owl Canyon, Bodega, SON, Oct. 5 (DN, JMo, MOB). This flycatcher is a very rare but somewhat regular fall transient, with most records on the coast (Small, 1994). No fewer than 16 individual Tropical Kingbirds were reported over HUM, MEN, MRN, MTY, SF, SM, SCZ, and SON counties. There were two reports of **Blue-headed Vireos** (*Vireo solitarius*), the eastern-most of the triad of sister species split from the former Solitary Vireo: one at Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 29-30 (RS, LC), and the other at the Farallones, SF, Oct. 7 (PRBO). Philadelphia Vireos were found in four places: at Murphy Crossing, Pajaro R., SCZ, for a 2nd SCZ county record (DSu), at PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse, Sept. 30 (LC, DNo), at BSOL, MTY, Oct. 6 (DR, RiC), and at Phipps Ranch, SM, Oct. 7-15 (RSTh, AE). Olema Marsh, MRN, had a Red-eyed Vireo Oct. 12, an individual known to have previously been treated and released nearby (RS).

An exciting find at the Nunes

Continues on page 6



WREN AEROBICS

Dick and I have found a new form of exercise which involves deep knee bends, lifting heavy furniture, lying down out-stretched, leaping to your feet then back to the floor, followed by quick sprints in different directions. We call it "Wren Aerobics." This can be arranged by having a Bewick's Wren in one room of your house. I never knew how many hiding places there were in that small extra bedroom! I now have a healthy respect for a wren's stealth, agility, speed on foot as well as in the air, and above all, its absolute quiet when being pursued by a pair of two-footed humans with supposed intelligence and ingenuity.

It was a wonderful 70 degree November day and we were working in the yard. We left the front door open to hear the telephone. In the past, I'd seen evidence of a wren's curiosity, e.g., one can lure them close with pishing noises. But I never imagined that "our" front yard resident wren would hop into our entry hall and on into the house without our knowing it. It wasn't until nearly dark that he put in an appearance, flitting about the living area as we rushed to close bedroom doors. For a moment Dick had him in his hand, but he escaped minus a few tail feathers. Finally we herded him into a small bedroom and shut the doors. After nearly a half an hour of aerobic exercise, we gave up, feeling the need to eat dinner. The plan was to leave him till morning when we would open the one window and merely shoo him outside. HAH! Well, it sounded like a good plan.

Wrens are characteristically active but secretive as they forage among shrubs for insects and berries in their native habitat. (I'm sure he found enough juicy spiders behind the bed

to keep him happy). I have seen our front yard wren scoot on foot along a brick ledge on the house wall as quick as a mouse. In fact, wrens have been compared to mice—in color, quickness and quietness. In the presence of danger (us) the usually sassy and talkative wren became completely silent. We never heard a peep out of him.

"Their flight is quick and erratic on short, rounded wings," according to Sibley. You're not kidding! In addition, with his little long-nailed feet, he could hang onto the edges of the recessed lights or the ceiling molding. He could also drop straight down behind the armoire where he hid behind its leg. By moving a broom handle we could herd him along but he could change direction faster than we could predict.

How did we succeed in our endeavors? Sheer luck! After yet another frustrating 20 minutes of morning Wren Aerobics, he flew up from the floor to the window ledge. I didn't take any chances that he might turn around and shooed him out with the kitchen towel I had been hoping to throw over him.

Later that day I heard him scolding something or someone in the front yard. He was back to normal, I'd say. He should be easy to spot without most of his long, expressive tail feathers—the ones he usually fans out or cocks above his back. Examining these feathers, I notice they are nicely striped horizontally. When worn by the wren, they give the impression of a checkerboard pattern. I certainly got plenty of good looks at this jaunty bird's eye stripe and long, sharp beak.

I look forward to next spring which is the time of year I am most aware of the Bewick's Wrens. His complex song is surprisingly loud

coming from such a tiny bird. Apparently their songs are very regional. However, according to Hoffman in "Birds of the Pacific States", when the song is analyzed it consists of three distinct parts. There is a quick opening of two or more notes, similar to a Song Sparrow's, then followed by lower notes rather "burry" in quality, and finally, a closing delicate, fine trill. There are endless variations but usually 3 parts can be heard. Just to fool you, the first or last part may be left off! Competition for females must be great in my yard because this past spring the wren nearest my bedroom began his arias before dawn and kept them up literally for hours. The chap in the front yard (our exercise instructor) was doing the same in his territory.

I prefer not to have such close encounters with my friends the birds. It's not only hard on the bird but it is extremely hard on two senior citizens who aren't as flexible as they used to be.

Donations

\$100 or more

Clyde Morris
George Lazar

To \$99

Miles McKey, Lois Cole Hughes,
Judith Timmel, Ellen and Gunther
Barth

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-843-2222. Thanks.



Field Trips Calendar

Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2, GRAY LODGE AND SACRAMENTO WILDLIFE REFUGES.

For this two-day trip, meet on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in lot # 14 at Gray Lodge. Drive east on I-80 15 miles beyond Davis to route 99 exit. Go north 52 miles on route 99 to the town of Gridley, turn left (west) on Colusa Hwy and continue five miles to Pennington Road. Turn left and follow signs to Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge. Proceed through the checking station (entrance fee) and continue to parking lot # 14. On Sunday, we will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the visitors' parking lot at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (entrance fee). To get there from I-5 take the Princeton exit (the sign used to say "Norman Road," but now says something like "Road 68") just north of the Glenn Co. line, and follow signs to the Refuge. Leaders: Steve and Renee Margolin. (530) 342-6476.

Saturday, December 1, REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK, Oakland.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the last parking lot. Take Hwy 13 to Redwood Road exit, go east (towards the hills) on Redwood Rd. 3 miles to park entrance on left. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936, rscalf@jps.net.

Sunday, December 2, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way). See January trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Sunday, December 2, ARROWHEAD MARSH, Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline.

See November Gull for details. Meet at 9:30 a.m. for this 3-hour trip. Take Hwy 880 to Hegenberger Rd. exit.

Drive west about a half mile, just past Leet Drive, turn right into small parking lot. Leader: Jeffrey Black, 510-526-7068. *

Wednesday, December 12, LAKE MERRIT, Oakland.

See November Gull for details. Meet at the Rotary Science Center at 9:30 a.m. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Saturday, January 5, CRANES AND WATERFOWL OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY.

Meet at 8 a.m. at Westgate Landing County Park. Take 80 to 4, go east to 160. Follow 160 NE to 12, Go east on 12 through Terminous and turn left on Glasscock Road (Terminous Market). There is a parking fee at the park. We'll look for cranes, swans, and other winter denizens of the Great Valley. We will travel to Woodbridge Rd. and Staten Island Rd. as well. Lunch at a nearby Wimpy's. Possible additional afternoon birding depending on the mood of the group and the weather. Leader: Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001 Rlewis0727@aol.com. (\$)

Sunday, January 6, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Sunday, January 6, LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, Marin County.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot. Take 101 north and exit at the Lucas

Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road off ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Road to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds, just before the county park. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left. We will see wintering ducks and shorebirds, keeping in mind that anything can show up. Trip will end at noon. Beginners welcome. Leader: Mark Eaton (415) 566-6767. mweaton@pacbell.net

Wednesday January 9, MINI-TRIP TO ARROWHEAD MARSH.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy 880 to the Hegenberger Rd. exit. Turn right (west) to Doolittle Drive and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right again onto Swan Way. After 1 block, turn left into the MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline and continue to the last parking lot. Beginners welcome. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Saturday January 12, PALO ALTO BAYLANDS.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. Take Hwy. 101 south to Palo Alto; exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the airport and the Baylands Nature Center. Continue beyond the airport to the duck pond (on the left) and park at the east end. Bring lunch, scope and clothes appropriate for rain and mud. We should see waterfowl, rails and shorebirds. Trip will end about midafternoon. Beginners welcome. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074 murphsf@worldnet.att.net (*)

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. Loveisat@aol.com.

Observations...

Continued from page 3

Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 29 was a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (*Catharus minimus*) (RS), and another of that species may have been seen at the PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse on Oct. 7 (GG). The Gray-cheeked Thrush breeds in the Arctic and normally migrates over the eastern and mid-western U.S. It is a very rare fall transient, with most records from the Farallones or PRNS (Small, 1994). Two Gray Catbirds were found: one at CCFS, SCL, Sept. 26 (SHu), a 2nd county record, and the other at the Farallones, SF, Oct. 7 (PRBO). A Brown Thrasher was reported from Princeton Marsh, SM, Oct. 6 (RSTh). As is usual for the fall period, many migrating wood warblers were reported (see Chart), and space limitations require omission of 28 Nashville Warblers, 20 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 71 Palm Warblers, and 33 Blackpoll Warblers. Two tardy Orange-crowned Warblers were found at Natural Bridges SP, SCZ (JP, LG, MMc) and a Palm Warbler at the O'Neill Forebay, MER, was said to be a 1st county record (PJM). A Black-throated Green Warbler in MER county was also a 1st county record. There were 4 warbler review species this month. **Grace's Warbler** (*Dendroica graciae*) breeds in the Four Corners area southward and an extremely rare fall transient (Small, 1994). This sighting was potentially a 1st county record for SCZ and the 3rd for Northern CA, as well as the northernmost CA record (fide DSu). There were two sightings of another rare transient, the **Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica dominiica*). This Eastern U.S. breeder was found in both SCZ and MRN counties. The **Pine Warbler** (*Dendroica pinus*), another Eastern U.S. species, is an extremely rare fall transient with most records, as was this one, from the Farallones (Small, 1994). A Northeastern U.S. and Canadian breeder, the **Mourning Warbler**

(*Oporornis philadelphia*) is a rare fall transient with virtually all records from coastal regions, 60% of them from the Farallones (Small, 1994).

Tanagers to Orioles.

A Summer Tanager was at Soquel Creek, SCZ, Sept. 27 (David Sudd), one was at Big Sur R. mouth, MTY, Oct. 7 (RG, RoF), a 3rd was at New Brighton SB, SCZ, Oct. 10 (DSu), and a 4th was seen at Laguna Grande Park, MTY, Oct. 13-14 (AC, RFo). Two **Scarlet Tanagers** (*Piranga olivacea*), those sumptuously-colored Eastern U.S. birds, were reported: at Laguna Grande Park, MTY, Oct. 13-18 (AC, SR, BW, MOB), and another at AMSP, MTY, Oct. 23 (KM). The Scarlet Tanager is an extremely rare coastal transient in Northern CA (Small, 1994). Brewer's Sparrow is rare west of the Sierras, but one was at Pacifica, SM, Oct. 5 (DSi), and possibly a second individual was found at San Pedro Creek, Pacifica, SM, Oct. 27 (JMo, DSi). Clay-colored sparrow reports were numerous again this period, with at least 35 seen over MRN, MTY, SF, SM, SCZ, and SON, with 7 birds at the Farallones on Oct. 4 (PRBO). A single Brewer's Sparrow was banded at CCFS, SCL, Oct. 2 (SHu, GB), and a Black-throated Sparrow was at the Farallones, SF, Oct. 4 (PRBO). Lake Merced, SF, hosted a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow Oct. 7-9 (DSi, DA, SD, MOB), for a first SF city record. Ten Swamp Sparrows were seen over HUM, MRN, SF (Farallones), SM, and SCZ counties. Twenty-nine sightings of White-throated Sparrows were reported over HUM, MRN, SF, SM, SCL, SCZ, and SON counties, with the Farallones having 2-7 birds on Oct. 4 (PBRO). *Calcarinus* species were reported from their usual PRNS, MRN, sites near North Beach, with 1-3 Lapland Longspurs and 1-2 Chestnut-collared Longspurs (MOB). Thirteen Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks were observed over ALA, MTY, MRN, SF, SM, SCZ and SON counties. One Indigo Bunting was found at the Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Oct. 8 (FB). Two

Bobolinks were at Mission Creek, Fremont, ALA, Sept. 26-30 (PG, TC), 1-2 were at the Farallones, SF, Oct. 4-7 (PRBO), and individual birds were reported from the Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Sept. 29-30 (RS, LHu), Hole-in-the-Head, SON, Oct. 3 (DN), the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, Oct. 5 (BW), and the PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse, Oct. 4 (DL). Laguna Grande Park, Seaside, MTY, had 11 Great-tailed Grackles Oct. 6 (SR) and 3 more were between Gustine and Los Banos, MER, Oct. 7 (PJM). Three Orchard Orioles reports came in: from Natural Bridges SP, SCZ, Sept. 30 (A, TN, MF, MOB), Bog Trail, SM, Sept. 30 (RSTh), and from the Farallones, SF, Oct. 7 (PRBO). Single Baltimore Orioles were at the PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse, Oct. 5 (JMo, RFi), at BSOL, MTY, Oct. 6 (DR, RiC), and 1-3 were at Pacific Grove, MTY, Oct. 8-9 (RoF, DR).

Abbreviations for Observers: BCA, Brian C. Acord; TA, Tim Amaral; PA, Phil Anars; DA, David Armstrong; FB, Florence Bennett; BSOL, Big Sur Ornithology Lab; BB, Bill Bousman; KB, Ken Burton; RC, Roy Carlson; RiC, Rita Carratello; JCe, Joanna Cezniak; LC, Les Chibana; JC, Josiah Clark; AC, Alfredo Contreras; HC, Hugh Cotter; GD, Gary Deghi; MD, Matthew Dodder; JD, John Dunn; TE, Todd Easterla; ME, Mark Eaton; AE, Al Eisner; EE, Elias Elias; DFi, David Fix; RFi, Robbie Fischer; BF, Brian Fitch; RFo, Rick Fournier; RoF, Rob Fowler; DG, Don Ganton; SG, Steve Gerow; MG, Michael Getty; GG, George Griffith; KG, Kevin Guse; KHi, Kevin Hints; BH, Bill Hill; DH, Dave Hofmann; CH, Craig Hohenberger; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; AK, Andrea Klausen; TK, Ted Koundakjian; RL, Rick Lebadour; JL, Jim Lomax; CL, Calvin Lou; MM, Mike Mammoser; MOB, Many Observers; JM, John Mariani; MaM, Matthew Mattiesen; SM, Sean McCallister; DMc, David McCormack; DMaK, David McKenzie; BM, Brian McIntosh; RM, Richard Merriss; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; JMo, Joe Morlan; DM, Dan Murphy; RoM, Roger Muscat; DN, Dan Nelson; TN, Todd Newberry; NCRBA, Northern California Rare Bird Alert; CO, Chet Ogan; MP, Mike Parmeter; PRBO, Point Reyes Bird Observatory; VR, Vijay Ramachandran; MaR, Mark Rauzon; BR, Bob Reiling; JR, Jean Richmond; DR, Don Roberson; MR, Mike Rogers; KR, Kerry Ross; SRv, Steve Rovell; TR, Tom Ryan; PS, Paul Saraceni; JaS, Jason Scott; JeS, Jeff Scott; MS, Michelle Scott; DS, Doug Shaw; DLSH, Debra Love Shearwater; RS, Rich Stallcup; JoS, John Sterling; LS, Lang Stevenson; AS, Andy Stone; DSu, David Suddjian; ST, Scott Terrell; RSTh, Ron S. Thorn; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; MU, Myra Ulvang; KVV, Kent Van Vuren; FV, Frank Vanslager; AV, Ann Verdi; AW, Adam Winer; PW, Pete White; JW, Jay Withgott; RW, Roger Wolfe; DW, Dave Woodward.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park; CC, Contra Costa; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; LAK, Lake; LAS, Lassen; MOB, Many Observers; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; NCRBA, Northern California Rare Bird Alert; PT, Pelagic Trip; PRBO, Point Reyes Bird Observatory; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SB, State Beach; SP, State Park.

Wood Warbler Sightings

Nashville Warbler

Sept. 30	Nunes Ranch	LC
	PRNS, MRN	
Sept. 30	PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse	LC, LIHu, CC, MOB
Oct. 2	Muir Beach, MRN	DMc
Oct. 3	Bodega Bay, SON	DH
Oct. 4	PRNS, MRN, Earthquake Trail	JW
Oct. 4-7(3-5)	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 5	Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN	JMo
Oct. 6	PRNS, MRN	KH
Oct. 12	Monterey, MTY	RoF
Oct. 14	Pacific Grove, MTY	BT
Oct. 14	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	AK
Oct. 16	Phipps Ranch, SM	JMB
Oct. 16	Muir Beach, MRN	DMc

Virginia's Warbler

Sept. 26	Mt. Davidson, SF	PS
Oct. 19	Pescadero Creek, SM	RSTh
Oct. 19	Stage Rd., Pescadero, SM	RSTh

Lucy's Warbler

Oct. 19	Phipps Ranch, SM	RSTh
Oct. 28	Big Sur R. mouth, MTY	RW

Northern Parula

Oct. 3-8	Bodega Bay, Owl Canyon, SON	DH, DN, JMo, MOB
Oct. 6	Ft. Ord, MTY	DSt
Oct. 8-12	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	AK, LG, MOB
Oct. 23-24	Muir Beach, MRN	DMc

Magnolia Warbler

Sept. 29	BSOL, MTY	BSOL
Oct. 4-10	PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse	KMc, JMo, RE, MOB
Oct. 4	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 5	Bodega Bay, SON	DiS
Oct. 8	BSOL, MTY	JeD
Oct. 10	Mt. Davidson, SF	PS
Oct. 10	Mt. Davidson, SF	PS
Oct. 11-14	Soquel Creek, SCZ	CE, LG, WG
Oct. 14	Half Moon Bay, SM	RSTh
Oct. 19	Don Edwards NWR, SCL	MaP
Oct. 21	Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN	JMo

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Oct. 4	Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN	KMc, JW
Oct. 4	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 6	PRNS, MRN	KH
Oct. 7-12	North Lake, female, SF	JMo, RFi, DA, MOB
Oct. 8	North Lake, male, SF	DA, GD

Oct. 8-11	Soquel Creek, SCZ	DSu, CE
Oct. 6	Meadoza Ranch, PRNS, MRN	LC
Oct. 7	Lighthouse, PRNS, MRN	LC, GG
Oct. 7	Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN	GG
Oct. 7 (3)	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 20	New Brighton SB, SCZ	RW

Black-throated Green Warbler

Oct. 6	O'Neill Forebay, MER	PJM
Oct. 7-8	Lighthouse, PRNS, MRN	LC, MP
Oct. 7	Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN	GG
Oct. 14	Castle Rock, PRNS, MRN	MH
Oct. 19-22	Pescadero Rd., SM	RSTh, AD
Oct. 27	Soquel Creek, SCZ	DSu

Blackburnian Warbler

Sept. 29-Oct. 6	Pajaro R., SCZ	DSu, DVP
Sept. 29-Oct. 1 (1-2)	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	DVP, MB, TN, MOB
Oct. 4	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 4	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 8	Owl Canyon, SON	CC, DN, JW
Oct. 19-20	Pescadero, SM	RSTh
Oct. 24	Muir Beach, MRN	DMc

Yellow-throated Warbler

Sept. 27	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	fide DSu
Sept. 26-29	Nunes Rancy, PRNS, MRN	JiH, RS

Grace's Warbler

Sept. 28-30	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	MSc, JP, LG, MOB
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Pine Warbler

Oct. 7	Farallones, SF	PRBO
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Prairie Warbler

Sept. 29	Half Moon Bay, SM	RSTh
Oct. 3-5 (1-2)	PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse	ME, JMo, RFi
Oct. 4	PRNS, MRN	RS
Oct. 7	Big Sur R. mouth, MTY	RG, RoF
Oct. 14	Laguna Grande, MTY	AC, KVV, MOB

Bay-breasted Warbler

Oct. 7 (2)	Farallones, SF	PRBO
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Black-and-white Warbler

Sept. 29	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	DVP, MB
Sept. 30	Bodega Bay, SON	DS
Oct. 4-6	BSOL	JaS, DR, RiC
Oct. 4	PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse	KMc
Oct. 5	Corralitos Creek, SCZ	CE
Oct. 7	Big Sur R. mouth, MTY	CH

Oct. 7	Natural Bridges SP, JH	SCZ
Oct. 8	Soquel Creek, SCZ	DSu
Oct. 8	Capitola, SCZ	CE
Oct. 15	San Lorenzo R., SCZ	CE
Oct. 16	Eureka Marsh, HUM	TI
Oct. 20	Big Sur R. mouth, MTY	DR, RiC
Oct. 20	Pine Gulch Creek, MRN	AR
Oct. 21	Point Pinos, MTY	RoF, RJA
Oct. 25	Pescadero, SM	R

American Redstart

Sept. 29	Pajaro R., MTY	DSu
Sept. 30	Carmel R. mouth, MTY	AC, IJ
Sept. 29	Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN	RS
Sept. 29	Pacifica, SM	AD
Oct. 2	Carmel R. mouth, MTY	RFO
Oct. 3	PRNS, MRN, Lighthouse	ME
Oct. 3	Stybring Arboretum, GGP, SF	JY
Oct. 4	PRNS, MRN	RS
Oct. 5	Ft. Miley, SF	HC
Oct. 7	Pajaro R., SCZ	DSu
Oct. 10	La Selva, SCZ	DSu
Oct. 17	Soquel Demonstration St. F	DSu
Oct. 27	Big Sur R. mouth, MTY	DR

Prothonotary Warbler

Oct. 6-12	Vista Grande Canal, SF	HC, RFe, DA, MOB
Oct. 15	AMSP, MTY	JaS
Oct. 28	Phipps Ranch, SM	RSTh

Northern Waterthrush

Sept. 29(2)-Oct. 4	Carmel R. mouth, MTY	BH, BW, MPRBA
Sept. 30	Casserley Creek, SCZ	DSu
Oct. 1	Deer Creek, ED	JS
Oct. 4	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 5-6	Carmel R. mouth, MTY	BW
Oct. 7 (2)	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 8	Capitola, SCZ	CE
Oct. 10	Soquel Creek, SCZ	RW
Oct. 16	Muir Beach, MRN	DMc

Mourning Warbler

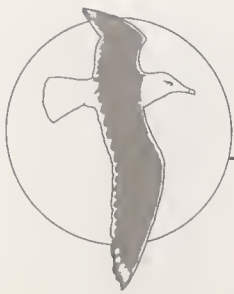
Oct. 4-7	Farallones, SF	PRBO
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Hooded Warbler

Oct. 4(2)	Farallones, SF	PRBO
Oct. 5-8	Nunes Ranch, PRNS, MRN	JMo, RFi, LC, MOB
Oct. 6	PRNS, MRN	KH
Oct. 15	La Selva, SCZ	fide DSu

Canada Warbler

Sept. 26	O'Neill Forebay, MER	ST
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Christmas Bird Counts

December 16th & 27th

Golden Gate Audubon's two counts, Oakland and San Francisco, are well along in preparation. If you are looking for a healthy, social, environmentally friendly activity for the holiday season, join us for the first time. Beginners are always welcome. If you are one of our long time participants, we look forward to seeing you again.

The San Francisco Count is on Thursday, December 27. The circle covers the northern San Francisco Peninsula from San Bruno to the Golden Gate. Join a team in one of the areas for a full day of birding; help for a few hours by covering your neighborhood park or square; be a midday birder for a few hours in downtown San Francisco, or watch in your backyard for as little as 30 minutes.

The Oakland Count is on Sunday, December 16. Encompassing an area from Point Isabel to south of the Oakland Airport, and from the Bay to Lafayette Reservoir, the Oakland count circle contains a variety of habitats that always produce a good number of species. Bird for the day with a group or be a feeder watcher in the comfort of your own home.

Both counts would welcome more participants, so if you're interested, but haven't signed up, phone the appropriate contacts listed below. Folks who let us know *early* are *very much appreciated* by the compilers! Neither count will be able to place counters at the last minute. If you have sent in a form, but haven't received an assignment yet, you can expect to hear from us soon. We look forward to seeing you in the field and at the count day dinner.

Oakland CBC Contacts: Joelle Buffa & Clyde Morris (510) 494-1098

San Francisco CBC Contact: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983



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